

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 ACDA-12
SSM-03 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6308
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USUN NEW YORK 506
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0170

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MARR, SU, LE
SUBJ: SUDANESE MILITARY FORCES TO LEAVE LEBANON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW SUDANESE TROOPS
FROM ARAB PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN LEBANON. HE INFORMED
PUBLIC OF THIS DECISION DURING MONTHLY "FACE UP THE
NATION" TELECAST JANUARY 16. BASIC PROBLEM WAS THAT
ARAB LEAGUE HAD FAILED PAY SUDANESE TROOPS.
2. IN LISTING PROBLEMS NIMEIRI SAID ARAB LEAGUE WAS
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COMPLETELY ABSENT FROM PEACE KEEPING FORCE ALTHOUGH ARAB
LEAGUE HAD CALLED IT INTO BEING AND SUDANESE CONTINGENT WENT
TO LEBANON UNDER LEAGUE AUSPICES. SUDANESE TROOPS WERE
NOT PAID FOR THREE MONTHS BECAUSE THE ARAB LEAGUE
FAILED TO SHOULDER ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. AS RESULT LEAGUE
NEGLIGENCE, ENGAGED FORCES IN LEBANON FAILED TO KEEP IN
CONTACT WITH NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS WHICH PROMPTED

"INDIVIDUAL MOVES AND INHARMONIOUS ACTS WHICH COULD HAVE LED TO DISASTROUS ENDS." SUDANGOV WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE ARAB LEAGUE TO PERFORM ITS TASKS IN REGARD TO TRANSPORT AND ADMINISTRATION OF REPLACEMENT TROOPS.

3. AS RESULT ARAB LEAGUE FAILURES, NIMEIRI SAID, SUDAN WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS. ABSENCE OF LEAGUE FROM PEACE KEEPING FORCE RESULTED IN DEFECT IN SUDANESE SYSTEM FOR KEEPING IN CONTACT WITH TROOPS, THUS CAUSING MORE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS. FURTHERMORE, DESPITE TROOPS BEING CONTINUALLY ENGAGED IN LEBANON FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS, SUDAN DID NOT RECEIVE EVEN ONE LINE FROM LEAGUE EVALUATING PERFORMANCE OF SUDANESE FORCES. LASTLY, SUDAN HAD TO GO TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR MONEY TO TRANSPORT FIRST AND SECOND BATCHES OF TROOPS TO LEBANON.

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4. COMMENT: THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATION REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF SUDANESE TROOPS FROM LEBANON FOR SOME TIME BUT NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT EVEN THOUGH WAY NIMEIRI ADDRESSED TOPIC IN SPEECH ONE WOULD THINK HIS DECISION WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE WHICH IT WAS NOT. HE PROBABLY MADE DECISION RELUCTANTLY SINCE HE KNEW
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SUDANESE TROOPS WERE NEEDED AND WERE DOING GOOD JOB. NIMEIRI'S INCLINATION IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IS TO BE HELPFUL IN OVERALL ARAB CONTEXT. HOWEVER, HE HAD DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS TO WEIGH AS WELL, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS MORALE OF HIS TROOPS. PROBLEM OF NOT BEING PAID WAS STRAW THAT BROKE CAMEL'S BACK AND APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT ARAB LEAGUE OR WEALTHY ARAB STATES WOULD SOON TAKE STEPS TO SOLVE PROBLEM. THUS NIMEIRI'S DECISION. BERGUS

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